April 2009 Webcast for District Education Technology Leaders from the McCracken County Board Office

Below is a complete written summary and digital copy (audio and video) of the April webcast for District CIOs and education technology leaders. Each month we go to a different district. This month the webcast was conducted on April 20th, 2009 at the Board Offices for the McCracken County school district.

You can get to both the Video and Audio links for this webcast through our webpage at:

http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Technology/Webcasts/Webcast+for+District+Technology+Leaders.htm

Video (use for faster connections): mms://video1.education.ky.gov/On-Demand2009/District_EdTech_Leaders04-20-2009.wmv

Audio Only (for slower connections): mms://video1.education.ky.gov/On-Demand2009/District_EdTech_Leaders04-20-2009-audio.wma

The broadcast is approximately 1 hour and 27 minutes.   The numbers in **red** below indicate the time stamp for discussion on the audio and video segment of the broadcast.

Summary

00:00 Introductions and McCracken County Schools information:

David Couch introduced those participating from **KDE.** They include: **Phil Coleman, Mike Leadingham,** as well as **Jody Rose – KETS Engineer for Region 1** which includes the McCracken County school district.

From **McCracken County** we have the **CIO-DTC Heath Cartwright**, who introduced **District Superintendent Tim Heller, Board Chair Neil Archer** and **Lead Technology Trainer Jayne Heath**. He also introduced **District Technology Leadership Academy participants /trainers: Sherry Davis, Sheila Straub, and Tina Hayes.**

The official website for the school district is: http://www.mccracken.k12.ky.us/

The link to the **Paducah/McCracken County** web site is: http://www.co.mccracken.ky.us/

The **Wikipedia** site for the following information regarding **McCracken County** is located at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCracken_County,_Kentucky

McCracken County is a [county](#) located in the [Jackson Purchase](#), the extreme western end of the [U.S. state](#) of [Kentucky](#). As of 2000, the population was 65,514. The [county seat](#) and largest city is [Paducah](#).[1]

History: McCracken County was founded in 1825, from Hickman County. The county was named for Captain Virgil McCracken of Woodford County.

Adjacent counties:

- **[Massac County, Illinois](#)** (north, across the **[Ohio River](#)**)
- **[Livingston County](#)** (northeast, across the **[Tennessee River](#)**)
- [Marshall County](#) (east)
- [Graves County](#) (south)
- [Carlisle County](#) (southwest)
- [Ballard County](#) (west)

3:00 Superintendant Heller gave an overview of McCracken County schools. The district has over 7000 students and about 1000 employees. The district does well academically. They have 3 high schools (Heath, Lone Oak, and Reidland) 3 middle schools (Reidland, Heath, and Lone Oak), 6 Elementary Schools (Concord, Farley, Heath, Hendron Lone Oak, and Reidland) and have students in the McCracken Alternative Placement school and the McCracken County Regional Juvenile Detention Center. The district has recently gone thru a consolidation and will be combining the three high schools into one school in the near future and technology will help play an important part in that. The Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for the district is going up – the growth is mostly internal to the county, there is no outside source for the growth.

The district is beginning a one-to one laptop initiative in the district. This grew out of concerns the Paducah Chamber of Commerce's Committee for Business Education Partnership had for district students having the technology skills their graduates would need to be successful in future work environments.

They are stating with the 140 laptops to teachers and staff over the spring and summer and will roll-out laptops to the students starting in the fall. They are planning on having extensive amounts of professional development to the teachers and staff in order to make sure that they are able to get the most out of new technologies and to use it successfully in the education setting going forward.

12:45 District Technology Leadership Academy – Lead by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Vick. **The academy was set up by the district to bring teachers together to become the district's education technology experts in the schools since the one district Technology Integration Specialist (TIS) was not enough to cover the entire district.** Those teachers in turn can share information and train others within their schools and even use students to help teach others. The goal is to provide resources so teachers can go as far as they can go.

How to do these things in the most cost effective manner was one of the initial questions they asked themselves as they set up this program? This is one of the reasons we do these webcasts out in the districts; to help show what is going well, what is working in districts that can be shared with others.

16:00 Legislative Information - Budget – Personnel - ARRA

- **Representative Brent Housman** http://www.lrc.ky.gov/legislator/h003.htm**:**

The state budget had a projected shortfall of $456 million. During the most recent "short" session, the 1st 10 days dealt mostly with budget issues – in particular HB143 and HB 144.

Will probably be called into a special session in June and it will probably last for 3 weeks.

The top three topics during this most recent session were:
1. Budget
2. Road Plan
3. SB1

There were other bills passed but no more important than the above listed three.

David asked how the changes in regards to SB1 will affect what is being done in the district. The Supt stated that they will carry on right now with the content areas that they have been testing in the past even though some are now considered optional and see what needs to be adjusted for assessments in the future. This district believes that student writing is important to assess.

- **CIO-DTC Cartwright** and **Superintendent Heller** do hope that the state will move towards using more technology in doing assessments including formative testing. This will free up time and technical resources in the future.

- The attorney general's office championed the **Internet Safety Bill,** which does some very positive things for internet safety and protecting children.

- Also **HB 467, Digital Citizenship** bill that almost made it thru the entire legislative process but in the end feel a yard short of the goal line. This bill will hopefully be resubmitted in the next full session in January.

- Over 120 bills passed and 750-760 were introduced/proposed. Was a very busy short session. **As was anticipated going into the session, no funds were appropriated during the FY09 session for the ongoing operational costs for the SIS beginning in FY10.**

25:25 **2ⁿᵈ Offers of Assistance:** An email message was sent to all state superintendents regarding 2ⁿᵈ offers of assistance last week. The offer will be $10.25 in the April timeframe to be used to help fund the unmet need for education technology. This is $6 million going to the districts that will be matched by the districts for a total of $12 million for education technology needs in the districts.

27:23 **Infinite Campus (IC) operational costs.** In FY06 the legislature appropriated approximately $14M for the implementation cost for the new Student Information System (SIS) known as Infinite Campus (IC)) but not the on-going operational costs of $5.5M per year (1.5M for the IC state accumulator and $4M for school district IC services) that KDE requested in the FY08 and FY09 legislative sessions. In the past, KDE the agency paid $700K per year for SIS services and the districts paid for the remaining amount for software (core and optional), software maintenance (bug fixes, new releases), telephonic help desk support, hardware (e.g., servers at each school and district office), local staffing that operated/maintained the SIS software/hardware systems and SIS related training for the local staff. The FY10 bill for IC services must be paid no later than some time in July. **The $5.5M SIS costs will be paid with (a) a portion of KDE funds at the state level ($1.5M) for the state accumulator and (b) a portion ($4M) of district managed funds (e.g., general funds, Edtech funds, federal, other general funds, etc) for the IC services that districts use directly for the reasons below.**

1. In the 2006 legislative session $14M in funding was identified and approved by the legislature to implement a new SIS system called Infinite Campus. However, **the legislature did not approve the $5.5M in required operational funding for the SIS that was requested by KDE in the 2008 and 2009 legislative sessions** that could have been used to fully pay for the SIS ongoing costs. Therefore we all have to identify other ways to pay for this annual $5.5M operational cost that begins in FY10.
2. Over the past 17 years all forms of administrative technology systems, used primarily in districts and schools, have been a shared expense between KDE the agency and school districts. This includes some hidden costs like local staffing for break/fix issues, software updates, optional modules, security, training and hardware. **In the past, districts primarily used general funds to pay for their portion of the SIS costs, however like in the past districts also have the option of using EDTECH funds for this purpose as well.**
3. Sending districts a $10.25 second KETS offer of assistance **gives districts the option of using general funds like they did in the past to pay for their districts SIS costs or the flexibility to use other funding sources (e.g., general funds).**
4. **Sending districts a $10.25 KETS offer of assistance allows the emphasis to continue to be giving the districts as much dollars in the form of KETS Offers of Assistance as possible and flexibility on what they want to spend those dollars on.** This approach will help with the increased costs (e.g., new internal high speed networks within the school and between schools) as well as the **district's portion of the IC costs.** This approach allows districts to best decide how these funds will address all their annual essential unmet needs for education technology.
5. **Sending districts a KETS 1ˢᵗ and 2ⁿᵈ KETS Offer of Assistance helps districts to continue to have funds available for operations, maintenance and replacement of instructional technology tools/services for student**s **as well as their own local e-rate applications for federal funding that usually generates up to $20M each year.**

This information and approach is consistent with information going back to March of 2008 (see below for several previous communications on this topic over the past 14 months)

From: Couch, David - Office of Education Technology
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2008 3:50 PM
To: All State CIOs
Cc: KDE Office Education Technology; Noland, Kevin - Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel; Riggs, Ann (Education Cabinet); Olds, Sabrina (LRC); Tarvin, Bob (Finance SFCC); Gold, Joe Dan; Chaney, Janea P. -- MCES Principal; Nix, Brenda - MSU KATE Program
Subject: March 2008 Webcast for District Education Technology Leaders
Importance: High

The March 2008 Webcast for District Education Technology Leaders was
from Morgan County Public Schools

Below is a complete written summary and digital copy (audio and video) of the March webcast for District CIOs and education technology leaders. Each month we go to a different district. This month the webcast was conducted on March 17, 2008 from Morgan County Central Elementary School in Morgan County.

22:48 **Budget** – The budget process is moving along. As a reminder, the Governor submits his budget, the House reviewed and votes, the Senate reviews and votes and then the joint committee then reviews and makes changes to reconcile both versions and both houses then vote on the joint committee version.

- $4M for initial KSIS implementation– however <mark>…..operations sustainability, not in budget</mark>

From: Couch, David - Office of Education Technology
Sent: Friday, May 02, 2008 3:24 PM
To: All State CIOs
Cc: KDE Office Education Technology; Noland, Kevin - Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel; Riggs, Ann (Education Cabinet); Tarvin, Bob (Finance SFCC); Olds, Sabrina (LRC)
Subject: April 2008 Webcast for District Education Technology Leaders
Importance: High

April 2008 Webcast for District Education Technology Leaders
from Johnson County Public Schools

Below is a complete written summary and digital copy (audio and video) of the April webcast for District CIOs and education technology leaders. Each month

we go to a different district. This month the webcast was conducted on April 18, 2008 from Johnson Central High School in Johnson County.

11:35 Legislative information – Representative Collins gave a brief overview of his perceptions of the latest legislative session.

The latest session had its share of ups and downs. Out of it came a very lean budget. Depending on what happens with receipts there may be a special session to re-address those budget and state income issues. The House had proposed some additional taxes to help alleviate the overall impact of a contracting economy, but the senate had refused any increases in taxes.

Also the retirement and ethics bills were not agreed upon and those problems are still outstanding.

25:50 Budget Implications – David gave an overview of what is known at this time. The long term details are still being scrutinized.

- $19.5M KETS Trust Fund monies in the budget
- KEN project - currently $15.3M in budget for operations. This is $700,000 short of what is needed and requested
- $4M Kentucky Student Information System (SIS) implementation was approved– ……FY10 and beyond for sustainability, not in budget

KENTUCKY DIRECTORS OF PUPIL PERSONNEL
Meeting Summary
November 21, 2008
Franklin County Board of Education Office

Members Present: Mike Ford (President – Boone Co.), Denise Perry (President Elect – Henry Co.), David Johnson (Vice President & Region 3 – Owensboro), Karen Kirby (Treasurer & Region 9 – Fleming Co.), Chuck Stallard (Past President – Danville), Fred Ashby (Secretary & Region 1 – Calloway Co.), Debbie Judd-Nunn (Region 5 – Green Co.), Kenny Whalen (Region 6 – Gallatin Co.), Steve Harrison (Region 8 – Jefferson Co.), Bill Burke (Region 10 – Carter Co.), Betty Luckett (Region 15 – Woodford Co.), Skip Johnson (Region 16 – Estill Co.), Gary Wiseman (Region 17 – Fayette Co.)

Guests Present: Sherri Cluskey (KDE), Kay Kennedy (KDE), Pam Greene (Past Treasurer – Bell Co.)

……KDE believes that any Student Information System (SIS) funding beyond the 2008-09 school year is unlikely. Kay Kennedy reported that districts should expect to be notified that they will be required to pay $6.31 prior year ADM to cover the SIS 2009-10 contract cost. The cost of the state contract with IC is $5.5 million, per year, and KDE anticipates to pay $1.5 million of the cost and the remaining $4 million to be paid by districts. SIS funding was included in KDE's 2008 budget request. When KDE learned SIS was not included in the Governor's budget, they then unsuccessfully requested the legislature (LRC) to add it….

From: Draud, Jon - Commissioner, Dept. of Education
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2008 5:10 PM
To: All State Supt
Cc: Palmer, Susan - Commissioner's Office; Gross, Lisa - Communications; Rush, Greg - Office of Internal Administrative & Support; Farris, Elaine - Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Learning Results Services; Webb, Ruth - Deputy Commissioner; Stinson, Larry - Office of District Support Services; All State Munis Finance Contacts
Subject: Budget issues to consider in preparing 2009-10 district budgets
Importance: High

Since you will begin the process of developing your budgets for the 2009-2010 fiscal year soon, I'd like to share some thoughts with you regarding the overall budget situation.

….Finally, while the implementation of the new student information system is on schedule and fully funded, ongoing costs for the system were not funded for 2009-2010. We will work with the Governor's Office and legislators to obtain funding for that program, but if we aren't successful in that effort, it may be necessary to share a portion of the $6 per student license fee with local districts.

From: Farris, Elaine - Interim Commissioner, Dept. of Education
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2009 4:39 PM
To: All State Supt
Subject: 2nd KETS offers of assistance notification to school districts
Importance: High

Dear Superintendent,

The annual FY09 technology unmet need for each district is determined by what it takes to minimally operate, maintain, and incrementally upgrade existing investments while also acquiring new and emerging technology. The FY09 technology unmet need is $132M (i.e., approximately $227 per student). This $132M figure comes from the 2007-2012 KETS Master Plan that the KBE originally approved in February 2007. This unmet need was approved again by the KBE in August 2008. At least $12.2M in KETS offers of assistance were also approved by the KBE in August 2008 to be sent to districts during FY09 in the form of either a first or

second KETS offer of assistance to help districts address that unmet need. The first KETS offer of assistance of close to $11 per student was offered to districts this past September. The Kentucky Department of Education is pleased to announce that the second FY09 KETS offers of assistance of $10.25/ADA will be offered to your districts in April by the School Facilities Construction Commission.

The KETS offer of assistance must be equally matched by school districts and placed in the district's local bank account (we call this combination of funds EDTECH funds). A district has up to three years to match the KETS offer of assistance. At no time has a district let a KETS offer of assistance lapse in 17 years including when the offers got up to as high as $112 per student. EDTECH funds are spent on KETS product standards and architectural designs for line items that are listed and discussed in the KETS Master Plan.

The four basic categories of need that EDTECH can be spent on in the KETS Master Plan are operations, maintenance, incremental replacement and new technologies. Of the four categories, expenditures in Operations and Maintenance are necessary to sustain current levels of service. That is, if unmet need within the Operations and Maintenance categories is not addressed in accordance with program guidelines, the integrity, sufficiency, and capacity of the district technology infrastructure will degrade until services are seriously curtailed or eliminated. These include items like student and teacher workstation repair, instructional software/services improvements, classroom printer repair, instructional fileserver repair, school and district management services (e.g., EDTECH funds can be used to address none, part, or all of the district's portion of the Student Information System service costs of $6.31 per student), initial/ongoing technology integration professional development, student technology leadership services, Internet instructional content, telephone communications to parents, distance learning services, help desk services, e-mail services, and enterprise data system access. The unmet need for Incremental Replacement constitutes a framework for replacement of various technology components on a scheduled basis over time, in accordance with the life cycle of each item or service. These include items like student workstations, teacher workstations, instructional fileservers, assistive and adaptive technology, school laser printers, classroom color printers, wireless networks, student hand-held devices, high-speed fiber networks, desktop conferencing, and digital projection devices.

The KETS offers of assistance only represent part of the funding strategy needed to support each district's technology services. In the 2007-2012 KETS Master Plan and the FY2009 KETS expenditure plan, we identify a variety of federal, state, local and private funds that can be used to pay for a district's unmet need. Districts will need to continue to secure alternative funding sources beyond the KETS funds, (e.g., federal funds, local grants, corporate donations, etc.) to fully fund the unmet need.

From: Farris, Elaine - Interim Commissioner, Dept. of Education
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 4:33 PM
To: All State Supt; All State Munis Finance Contacts
Cc: KDE Planning Committee
Subject: Budget reductions and Infinite Campus costs
Importance: High

Dear Colleague,

This e-mail provides the most recent information regarding the continuing process of budget reductions for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. I am providing below a spreadsheet (also on the KDE website) that will provide by district the final dollar amount of state-funded programs for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The dollar amount of the reduction is reflected on the spreadsheet in the Adjusted Textbook Allocation column, and also in the Adjusted Flex Focus (combined total of the five programs) column. Please recall that Flexible Focus funds, once received at the local level, may be readjusted to accommodate local needs and priorities. Consistent with usual process, you will soon be receiving an award letter indicating the revised funding amount. The December 31 deadline for reallocation across these funds has been waived for this year due to budgetary constraints.

I also want to remind you that we will soon be providing districts with the amount of funding each will owe for the ongoing operational costs of Infinite Campus. Because of our serious statewide funding concerns, it will be necessary to continue the past practice of shared funding for the student information system. While I regret that this is the case, I want to remind you the possibility of this situation was raised by former Commissioner Jon Draud in a communication to all superintendents in December 2008.

Please contact Larry Stinson at 502/564-5130 or Larry.Stinson@education.ky.gov if you have any questions.

Elaine

36:25 Mike Leadingham - ARRA funds Kentucky will get up to $9.5 million from the EETT program via the stimulus program. No details yet from the federal folks. We understand it will follow the traditional program on how the monies will be distributed, but no detail on specifics on areas to concentrate on. Please provide feed-back on how you would recommend these monies should be used to your KE, Mike, Kim Duvall, or Wendi Daley. There should be a larger number of eligible districts with these monies. There will be a meeting on the 1st of May that KDE will attend with the federal folks in Washington DC that should give some more detail that we can report on during the next webcast.

Regarding the overall ARRA there will be some more education initiatives on a wider range of possible efforts. Larry Stinson is the KDE point person for this effort. Another aspect is the Federal stabilization fund and the possibility of some specific grants becoming available depending on how well the early monies are spent.

David wanted to make sure the audience knows we are still in the limited information mode. We know 10-15% and the rest unknown. Look at recovery.gov – it is the same information we are getting.

These will be one-time monies – do not put these monies in non-sustainable projects. These monies should be used for building capacity. Another example is broadband into homes and to the community.

Brian Mefford who used to be the person in charge of Connect Kentucky is now in charge for Connect Nation. They took the Kentucky model of working with utilities and businesses to make broadband work in Kentucky and expanded it to use on a national scale.

We would like your input on what do you want the focus of the one-time EETT funds coming from the ARRA? There will be some intense scrutiny of these additional monies. In the past, there has been a focus on Professional Development, using TISs and TRTs in helping expand the ability of districts to use technology to make a difference in the classroom in the non-competitive area. The feds may give us some specific guidelines, but we want districts to give us their input.

41:37 Traditional EETT program notes: About a week ago 45 districts have been awarded competitive grants. Money should be available July 1.

42:06 E-rate audit 2009: KDE is going through a federal e-rate audit starting May 11th. We know districts are also going through these audits as well and will continue to help districts gather information or assistance as needed. Call if you need information or help.

David commented that audits do not mean you have done anything wrong. With public monies there should be complete transparency. KDE has done well in all of the audits we have had over the past few years. We expect to do the same with this one as well.

48:11 Update on the STI and IC-KSIS: The technology pieces of the old STI student identifiers-open enrollment process and store at the state level to help make student moves easier.

Existing data will be stored for 3-5 years and then we plan to blend that data into the new IC-KSIS as needed.

Districts still use some of the stand-alone modules/applications from STI. STI currently supports them remotely and we want to make sure they still can do so. We may take an inventory to make sure we know what is being used and where.

49:48 AD/Exchange upgrade: Jody Rose gave a review of the current status of the project.

Timelines have become clearer over the past 30 days with Microsoft's deliverable matched up with some of our requirements. While the projects are closely related

certain tasks have become more distinct phases. Districts seem to be happy with this development – they will not feel so rushed and be able to make sure each phase is working for them before adding more functionality.

AD pilots should be started in the next few weeks depending with equipment delivery with the full core project for all the remaining districts on June 1st. We will try to do 2 a day, 10 per week to the end of September.

Email and the hosted email and collaborative tools. Microsoft will be able to deliver the email only portion of this with local training and related activities in the September/October timeframe. Districts have been asking if this process will be done during the summer.

The collaborative tools will be at least several months away or longer. There are some legal and technical hurtles that need to be overcome. This will allow districts to be able to complete the migration in a manageable manner.

David wanted to comment that Kentucky is the 1st state in the nation to move to this hosted email web solution statewide for all of K-12. It is the first time Microsoft has offered it to the entire K-12 environment. Microsoft has offered these free accounts to higher education for the past few years but only recently stated to offer this to the K-12 environments…including teachers and administrators. They are not just offering to Kentucky students, but staff as well. There is a business aspect for Microsoft. They are competing with applications such as Google, it is a public service and they can learn from K-12 for their deployments to companies in the future.

Microsoft is in the process of being able to differentiate what services districts and students will have access to. Currently, anyone at live@edu gets the entire library of collaborative tools. Districts need more control of what administrators, teachers, and students should be able to use/access. Microsoft would not be able to do this in the original April-May time-frame.

54:48 The **Kentucky Schools Board Association (KSBA)** will be doing an article on these types of **"cloud"** computing solutions that the implementation of the high speed KEN network made possible (see below).

From: Couch, David - Office of Education Technology
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2009 3:49 PM
To: KDE Planning Committee; KDE Office Education Technology; Riggs, Ann (Education Cabinet); Tarvin, Bob (Finance SFCC); Olds, Sabrina (LRC)
Subject: 'Cloudy' technology forecast in Kentucky schools: Kentucky School Advocate

KSBA has an on-line and paper publication that they call the Kentucky School Advocate (see below). Their May edition just came out and on the front page it says " 'Cloudy' technology

forecast".   With title like that you might assume it's about doom and gloom, but actually it's about a concept and approach that will have a huge positive impact on K-12 across the country over the next 5 to 7 years. The article discusses cloud computing in simple terms so the average person can follow it as well as an example of a cloud computing initiative (i.e., the next generation e-mail and collaboration tools system (aka Live@edu)) that KDE the agency and K-12 school students, teachers and administrators will begin implementing and using this coming fall and winter.   Yesterday at the Kentucky Digital Summit, KDE was recognized in one of the major sessions as a visionary in regards to the Live@edu approach.   So cloud computing is something folks will be hearing a lot more about in the near future and KDE is one of it's pioneers. The Ky K-12 Live@edu advisory committee, who has been meeting for several months, that is comprised of KDE staff, school district representatives and vendor partners, met again yesterday to fine tune the requirements and design to meet the needs our K-12 customers. Live@ edu was also an agenda item that was discussed last week by the Commissioner's Technology Advisory Council that is comprised of students, parents, board members, teachers, curriculum supervisors, CIOs and Supts.

Kentucky School Advocate   May 2009

Technology forecast: cloudy   http://www.ksba.org/advocate/article/technology-forecast-cloudy

By Jennifer Wohlleb

Staff Writer

_____

With budgets tight and technology expensive, Kentucky school districts are turning to an emerging style of service delivery called cloud computing that could help contain some of those exploding costs.

Cloud computing can have several definitions, but for Kentucky schools it's generally referring to paying a company to run technology services outside of a school district, such as e-mail and data storage, freeing up technology staff for other tasks and saving districts the expense of buying the hardware and software needed to run those services.

"For example, in the past, Microsoft just sold you the software," said David Couch, associate commissioner of the state Department of Education's Office of Technology. "Then you went to

another company, Dell, IBM, HP, whoever, and you bought their servers. Then you loaded it and started running it and you were the service provider."

Couch said that companies like Microsoft are now selling a service in addition to their software, called SaaS – Software as a Service.

"So instead of buying the software now (as an organization), I'm going to say, 'Let's buy a service and they are going to provide all of the technology behind the scenes, all the servers, all the software, all the people to run it, keep the software updated and data backed up," he said. "So you pay a fee every month or year to have this service, or a cloud."

Butler County Schools' Technology Director James Arnold said he believes cloud computing could save his district money.

"We're looking at the Software as a Service model, which is going out on Microsoft's cloud and using their applications, such as Word, PowerPoint, Excel," he said. "We'll also have the ability to store our data on their cloud and that's going to save us money if this thing works the way that it's supposed to. It will save us money in not having to buy as many file servers.

"The big question to us is this: if the Internet backbone that is provided to school districts will have sufficient capacity to handle this? That's the $64,000 question."

Couch said network speed and reliability is key to cloud computing, from the school's network all the way to the service provider, along with having confidence that the service provider can deliver the promised service-level agreement.

"Without the legislative investment in the Kentucky Educational Network (KEN) in 2007 and 2008 that provided the next generation high-speed connections for all 174 school districts, we would be forced to spend more money overall, as necessary service offerings would have to be duplicated locally in each district," he said. "With the high-speed KEN network, we can leverage that investment and the faster links to the Internet, giving us the option to work with companies that provide these large-scale services to all of us remotely, via the Internet or the cloud."

Kentucky public schools will be counting on KEN's speed and reliability later this year when they begin using Microsoft's Live@edu, a cloud service it had previously made available for free to higher education.

"Kentucky will be Microsoft's largest K-12 deployment and the first state in the country to provide this service for all its schools," Couch said. "What this does is give students, teachers and administrators access to quality e-mail and collaboration tools at no cost. Instead of the e-mail server and collaboration server being located and managed within the school district, those servers are going to be located at data centers across the country, and if one data center goes down, we have redundancy in another. This gives us what we call 24-by-7 service."

One of those collaboration tools is data storage, a growing – and expensive – need for school districts.

"As you have more and more people wanting to store more and more of the things they've created, you're not just talking about storage, but about backing it up," Couch said. "We call this disaster recovery. You're seeing a lot more people interested in transferring that headache to someone else because they can't afford to keep up with it 24-by-7."

Cloud computing is also enabling some schools to extend the life of some of their older computers that would otherwise be put into surplus. Maritta Horne, Pike County Schools' technology director, said the district has been able to continue using 1,500 computers that otherwise would not work within the state's network because they require too much processing speed and memory.

"As long as that older computer has a CD-ROM or a USB drive, we actually boot that machine to the clouds," she said. "We actually have machines doing this without a hard drive. The students are still within a secure network. What we're actually purchasing is a service."

While these older machines have limited functions, they do provide greater equality of access and lower the ratio of computers to students. "Regardless of where the child is, regardless of the school, he or she can access the Internet," Horne said.

Couch said in the end, cloud computing may not be a direct money saver (in regards to current staff size) because districts still need expertise to manage the cloud and noncloud services within the district, but it will help control costs because districts won't have to budget for hardware and software replacement for the services being provided through the cloud.

"Districts will probably still need everyone that they have," he said, "but the cost-avoidance benefits mean that if they have five employees, it keeps them from having to have 20 and not being able to keep up with all the new services their students and teachers want available to them in the classroom and to complete school assignments at home."

58:48 **CyberSafeKy institute Assemblies** which is our partnership with the **Kentucky Attorney General's office and Kentucky Child Now.** Together at this time we are sponsoring two major Institutes for students, parents, teachers and administrators on October 15 on WKU's campus and October 22nd in Hazard. There may be some additional meetings announced later. We hope to have parents, teachers, law enforcement and others to meet to discuss cyber safety, digital citizenship and how to educated folks on internet safety and security.

Below is a draft agenda plus a good discussion on Topix and media social networking sites that I touched on during the webcast.

From: Leatherman, Todd (KYOAG)
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 12:59 PM
To: Couch, David - Office of Education Technology; Mary Kate Poling; Martin, Allison (KYOAG); Harrison, Elaine - Office of Education Technology; Christy Gibbons; Jennifer Watson; Traci Walker
Subject: RE: Why are people so angry? Online anonymity creates a mob mentality.

Right on David - we get several complaints on Topix in particular. The lack of civility displayed by posters on these sights is particularly troubling. Unfortunately this behavior is all too common on many blogs and other sights, including newspapers, which offer readers the ability to "comment". It would be interesting to learn more about the extent to which there is any screening occurring on any sites or if there is any kind of recognized authority or standards regarding screening that "reputable" sites could ascribe to. As you say, newspapers require you to provide your name and address in order to have a letter to the editor published. I know there are important policy reasons for ensuring that citizens have the ability to communicate anonymously also, but there is harm being caused by anonymous posters of libelous information about non-public figures and policy makers should be informed about the issue so they can propose reasonable guidance.

From: Couch, David - Office of Education Technology
[mailto:David.Couch@education.ky.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 12:35 PM
To: Mary Kate Poling; Leatherman, Todd (KYOAG); Martin, Allison (KYOAG); Harrison, Elaine - Office of Education Technology; Christy Gibbons; Jennifer Watson; Traci Walker
Subject: Why are people so angry? Online anonymity creates a mob mentality.

Somewhere in the regional institute's CyberSafeKy agenda, there needs to be a discussion on (1) community gossip sites like Topix and (2) the web posting services that news media organizations (e.g., Courier Journal, Lexington Herald, WLEX, etc) use to allow people to post online comments in regards to their online news articles. These can be very poisonous and destructive services that encourage the worst behavior because people feel they can be totally anonymous with little recourse or accountability of anything they say…no matter how untrue or made up. Empathy, compassion and concern for accuracy/truth are thrown out the door and replaced with online courage, rage, loose gossip, cruelty and desire to stir up as much trouble or damage as possible.

Every community leader and Supt is very aware of these sites and wants some guidance/education on what can be done when untrue, slanderous, hurtful, cruel and vicious information is posted about their students, teachers and themselves on these types of sites and services.

Most folks say totally ignore what is said on these sites… and most certainly don't be an active contributor. Which is good advice, but we also need to ensure we don't have people in leadership positions (e.g., boards) or parents basing their decisions and perceptions on what they read on these types of sites either. These types of services are so new, people don't understand just because they see something in electronic form on what appears to be a reliable news source or service doesn't mean it is true. This is a growing pain that citizens need to become savvier about and will no doubt get better over time…but for now these types of sites are causing at the minimum disruption and at the most suicide.

A respected news source usually requires some confirmation that you are who you say you are before they post something you say in their paper version. However almost anything goes and no such level of scrutiny or monitoring occurs on their on-line version comments which have the credibility, depth and content similar to what you would see on bathroom walls and stalls.

Ironically today's paper version Lexington Herald has a good article today titled "Lynch-mob mentality too often overtakes Web-page posters" that was provided by the St Petersburg times writer John Barry on the lack of compassion and growing rage of people using these types of sites for a large range and types of rants. Interestingly, the online version of the Lexington Herald does not have this article available to readers to comment on, however the article can be found at the St Petersburg Times at http://tampabay.com/features/humaninterest/article991297.ece. It's short and sweet and worth reading.

In our efforts to help schools and communities become better digital citizens during the regional institutes and school assemblies, these types of web sites need to be included as part of our educational agenda as well.

Hi guys, here are the notes from the last meeting. Sorry for the delay. We have done quite a bit since our last meeting and we need to schedule the next meeting in May. Can you please give Traci Walker some dates you might be available.

We confirmed Hazard Community and Technical College for October 15th and WKU for October 22nd for the Regional Institutes. So please mark your calendars! Our next step is to have the planning team meeting. If we look at the agenda of what we want to accomplish that day we need to decide who will be the lead presenters in each section. We identified who we thought should be on the planning committee and we still need to work out invites to those folks but let us get a date first to move this forward.

Thanks Everyone

Mary Kate

March 18, 2009
Internet Safety Planning meeting
KCN, AG & KDE

Draft Agenda
1. We discussed to create a new name for the initiative.
    a. Allison will provide some names by Friday- COMPLETED "CyberSafeKY" is the new name.

2. ATT Grant Outcomes and Expectations- reviewed goals for At&T contract. 45 assemblies, 2 regional institutes. Discussed process for sharing calendars and presenting as partners together. We discussed reviewing and updating powerpoint presentation. Jennifer Watson will take the lead and will work with the AG's office. COMPLETED- New presentation completed and implemented as of April 1.

3. Regional Institutes- Location- Mary Kate will pursue Hazard Community and Technical College and WKU for October 15th and 22nd. COMPLETED: Reserved HCTC ball room for October 15th and WKU for October 22nd.

4. Created Vision of the Institute

Vision of Institutes

Education:
1. Law
2. How to identify concerns and what to do
3. Social network (communication technologies)
4. Hands on
5. Predators, grooming behaviors

Digital Citizenship:
1. Overview of digital citizenship
2. Responsible social networking – comm. Strategies
3. Sharing resources

Standard Instruction:
1. Law
2. Identify procedures

Goals/Outcomes

Goals:
1. Educate all on concerns with internet safety
2. Improve digital citizenship
3. Commit to standard instruction on safety for all stakeholders
4. Identify "What to do" when concerns on internet safety arises

Outcomes:
1. School admin.- commit to educate kids on digital safety instructions
2. leave with resource book

Resource book:
1. Myspace, Facebook, Cybercrimes
2. How to engage community
3. Law
4. Concerns
5. What to do
6. Digital Citizenship

Law/Policy
▪ Legal – Prosecutors
▪ School Reps
▪ Parents

- School Admin.
- Law enforcement
- Librarians
- School board
- PTA's
- Tech/legal

Social Networking
- Parents
- Teachers
- Kids
- School Admin
- Bullying Expert

Lab
- Myspace
- Facebook
- Dell
- Best Buy
- AT&T
- Lab

Agenda

9:30 -10:00	Registrations
10:00-10:15	Welcome
10:15-11:00	Law/Policy – (Jack Conway or Todd)
11:00-12:00	Digital Citizenship – (David Couch)
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch / Lab
1:00 - 2:00	Round Table (Trainers / Youth)
2:00 – 2:15	Closing

Evening 1 hour
- Parent assembly
- Games for kids
- Goal – 100 parents 100 kids

Planning Committee
- Sullivan University
- Microsoft
- Dell
- AT&T
- Best Buy / Geek Squad
- Lori, Todd & Debbie
- KCN Staff
- Mark Neblitt & Sheila Stanton
- STLP
- YAC
- WKU
- Hazard

To Do
- Set a date for next meeting in May
- Press Conference at beginning of September- SET FOR SEPT 3RD TBD LOCATION
- Send Save the Date in Late August
- Create Content for Resource book
- Student Curriculum for assemblies 3/31 – Jennifer
- Create school internet safety request form – Todd & Debbie get in touch- Done
- Locations of Regional Institute / Time frame – Allison to look for available dates will check with Jack – Mary Kate will contact locations
- Email Sullivan contact to Mary Kate – Allison
- Need to get presenters / organize round tables - Talk to David about Digital Literacy
- October – Safe Schools Month
- Aim to do both Regional Institutes in October (15th, 22nd, 29th)
- Allison will give Mary Kate some potential contacts for sponsors

1:02:30 District Technology Plans: Mike L. gave a reminder that these plans are due to their KE on April 15th.

Also, a recent federal audit advised us to capture some additional detailed information and we have added it to the plans.

1:04:48 WSUS Phase 3: Phil C.   Good news this will be the last webcast we talk about this particular project. It started today and should be done by the 15th of May. WSUS provides updates to Microsoft based machines, workstations and servers in the districts.

1:05:24 File Server and Workstation Contract update: Finance Administration has ruled on an appeal on HP for the file server contract. They have approved HP on the contract along with IBM and Dell.
The workstation contract is up on June 30th and districts need to get with the Architectural Standards representative to give their input on any changes needed and what needs to be considered on the next workstation contract. Printers are also something we are looking at. There are no RFPs out on these yet. There will probably be an extension on the workstation contract before this process is complete.

Older **Dataseam** machines will be coming out of warranty soon and district should be aware of this. If you have any questions call 800.519.3650.

1:09:37 Datacenter link on the KDE website:

Go to http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/HomePageRepository/Data+Center

- There have been requests by customers to have a centralized place on an organization's web site where customers can quickly and easily access commonly requested or needed

information without having to know the organization's Web structure (or using a search engine) and for that information to be up-to-date.

- So an information directory page has been created and placed on the front page of the KDE Web site to meet these two major requirements. The information that customers see when they click on a hyperlink in that information directory actually takes them to information that still physically resides in the program area's portion of the KDE Web site. So behind the scenes, we are just pointing folks to existing information from this single information directory page on the KDE web site. Nothing fancy, really. Also, in order to encourage school districts to do these same two things on their district web sites, we need to walk the talk and give them an example to follow.

- As data systems in KDE evolve over the years, this KDE information directory page will point customers to reports/information that are located not just on the KDE Web site, but to other data reporting systems.   For example, on the current information directory page, some of the reports are Excel spreadsheets located elsewhere on the KDE Web site. In the future, some of these spreadsheets may be provided another way and in another format (e.g., through the state longitudinal data system), so we'll point customers to the new links as those transitions occur.

- We recommend that districts do something similar on their website. You need to make sure links are active and kept updated as well.

1:11:20 Master Calendar and external DNS: On **May 1**, we will be putting up a Master Calendar on the KDE website. It will list the major events dealing with KDE.

External DNS – it is what happens when you type in something on your web browser and converts it to internet speak. We want to move KDE's External DNS entries off-site away from Frankfort. When there is a fiber cut or power outage in Frankfort it not only affects us but districts as well. By doing this we will not directly affect the districts if there is a problem in Frankfort.

1:13:25 KETS Service Desk Hours: In order to accommodate districts in Western Kentucky the KETS Service Desk will be available in the near future from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm eastern time - Monday to Friday. This will mean that our hours in the central time zone will be open to 5:00 pm. This will also affect our network, security, and other teams so they will be available as well.

1:14:27 MUNIS information – Operating System/Server Hardware/Database engine: After meeting with the vendor recently we will be looking/updating what the future will mean for districts **in regards to a change in direction for the Operating System/Server Hardware/Database engine** that the MUNIS applications run on top of. This possible change is not for the actual MUNIS applications that run op top of the operating system, database engine and server.   We will be looking at our recent study and updating our information. Including the pros and cons and getting that updated information out to districts so they use in their planning.

1:17:55 Education Week - Technology Counts:
Kentucky ranked 5th in the country with an A- in Use of technology, an A in capacity to use technology, and a B+ in access to technology. It did not include the update to KEN or the IDU program or we may have done better.

Education Week released its 12th annual "Technology Counts" report.

Much like *Ed Week's* annual "Quality Counts" report, this publication looks at states and provides narratives on particular items of interest. The issue also "grades" states based on their P-12 technology systems.

The theme of this year's issue is online learning and the expansion of that to all students, not just the high-achievers or those in wealthy areas.

"Technology Counts" graded states in two main areas:

- o Use of Technology; i.e., student standards for technology, virtual schools (Kentucky's grade was an A-.)
- o Capacity to Use Technology; i.e., teacher standards for technology, technology coursework requirements (Kentucky's grade was an A.)

States' access to technology also was graded, although the data used was outdated, giving Kentucky a B.

States also got an overall grade and ranking. Kentucky's overall grade was a B+, and the state ranked 5th nationwide.

In 2008, Kentucky's overall grade was a B+, placing it 3rd in the nation (tied with three other states).

The full report is available online at http://www.edweek.org.

1:19:00 Superintendants End of Legislative Session overview meeting. We webcast the meeting this year. We had 85-90% of districts who watched or listened to the webcast of this meeting live. The use of webcasts is something that will help to get interaction with districts and help to drive down travel related costs. You can watch or listen to a copy of the 90 minute annual Superintendents meeting at:

Video and Audio: mms://video1.education.ky.gov/On-Demand2009/Annual_Supt_3302009.wmv
Audio Only: mms://video1.education.ky.gov/On-Demand2009/Annual_Supt_3302009-audio.wma

- **The Commissioner's Technology Advisory Council met on April 29th.**

You can listen to or watch a copy of the Commissioner's Technology Advisory Council (TAC) Meeting at the following (see the agenda below):

Video   mms://video1.education.ky.gov/On-Demand2009/TAC_4-29-2009.wmv

Audio-only   mms://video1.education.ky.gov/On-Demand2009/TAC_4-29-2009-audio.wma

---

From: Couch, David - Office of Education Technology
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2009 3:54 PM
To: Farris, Elaine - Commissioner, Dept. of Education; 'Adam Knecht'; Belcher, Kermit; Biddle, Jeanne; Bryant, Douglas R; 'Cindy Baumert'; Crowley, Michele; Drake, Greg; Eklund, Pam; Foster, Bret; Francis, Jana Beth - DCPS; Gossett, Cheri DTC; Green, Jerry; Greene, Pam; Hudson, Rocky - Board Member; Johnson, Patty; 'Justin Taylor'; Lile, Benny; MacKenzie, Diane; Maxey, John D -- CIO/DTC; Selvitelle, Mike; Shrout, Sharon; Taylor, Susan - DTC; Wilson, Charles Ed.- Superintendent
Subject: Reminder: Next Wednesday is The Commissioner's Technology Advisory Council (TAC)
Importance: High

The Commissioner's Technology Advisory Council (TAC)

Capitol Plaza Tower, Kentucky Board of Education meeting room (1st Floor)

500 Mero Street, Frankfort Kentucky

April 29, 2008
1 pm-3:30 pm

AGENDA

Welcome – Elaine Farris, Commissioner

o   Introductions and sharing local activities and concerns

GOAL 1: HIGH STUDENT PERFORMANCE

1. **2009 Legislative Session**- What are the direct and indirect policy and operational implications of the legislative session that impacts education technology in school districts beginning on 1 July 2009?   SB1, HB315, HB467, etc.

2. **2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**- What are the direct and indirect policy and operational implications of the federal ARRA funds that could impact education technology in school districts in the near future?   Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT), data systems and other possible opportunities will be discussed.

3. **Live@edu in the Fall of 2009**- What are the policy and operational issues that need to be considered as K-12 moves to the next generation of our Microsoft communication and collaboration tool (aka Live@edu) during the summer of 2009?

4. **Digital Citizenship meets No Child Left Offline –** Back in 1998, Kentucky passed and implemented a law in regards to Internet Safety and Security for all Kentucky schools. However since that time many new technologies, communication techniques and electronic content tools have been introduced into schools and homes. There has also been a significant increase in regards to anytime, anywhere, always on access to educational content and communications.   What needs to be updated in KDE's guidelines to district acceptable policies (AUP) in regards to Digital Citizenship?

1:20:35 MegaDeaf conference: The Kentucky School for the Deaf lead a meeting with many other schools nationwide using the high speed network and video conferencing equipment that have installed over the past two years.

1:21:09 Upcoming events:

KySTE Summer Camp: The Summer camp will be held from June 17-19. You can get more information from the KySTE website at www.kyste.org.

Questions:

Question from Lee Burke, finance officer in Whitley County: *Will there be any additional Coal Severance Funds available from this budget for the payment of KySTE loan obligations?*

Answer from David: *No – there will be no additional funds. Monies for paying down KySTE loans were not allocated in the FY09 and FY10 state budget. The only remaining outlay from Coal Severance monies has been set aside for the Kentucky Dataseam Project.*

Question from Linda Smith from Campbell County: *Any idea when we can expect the 2nd Offers of Assistance checks?*

Answer from Mike L: The process is the same as in the past. *In the next week or two the School Facilities Construction Commission will provide the notification asking districts to identify the match for those funds. Also, there are some districts that have not acted on their 1st Offers.*

Question from Jeff Jones who is a district technology resource teacher in Fayette County: *Is live@edu a long term OET vision for districts to use for content and courseware management issues for like virtual classroom space for teachers and students, workflow support for the central office, including those with confidentiality issues such as special education and then media distribution and delivery?*

Answer from Jody Rose: *With the Microsoft offering there has been some discussion on what is meant regarding collaborative tools and what will be available. At the same time there is a lot of potential moving forward. We recognize that local districts have made some investments in various products that do workflow and content management like SharePoint, Blackboard and Moodle. The fact that it will cost districts -0- is a great thing. The counter to that is we give away some things; one of these is the ability to customize parts of this product to the extent that some districts would want us to. It is NOT the long term goal of KDE to negate those local investments. SharePoint has more granular control that this product does not have. This does not say that some time in the future that we will not explore opportunities to use these technologies as they come along.*

David also informed the group that these tools will also start to shape how districts handle data and use of their network. Data storage with the use of the Skydrive (25 Gig) will not only affect storage choices but bandwidth usage as well. Disaster Recovery will also come into play as Microsoft will be backing up those Skydrives for those users.

Question from Robin Duffy in Pulaski County: *With live@edu goes live will we have the means to prevent students from using their hotmail accounts?*

Reply from Jody Rose: *May need to get some more specifics from Robin. We know there is the ability of users to add more than one email account to join those together with live@edu. I will need to check to see if we can prevent that I am not 100% sure.*

Question from Diane Goodwin in Danville Independent: *Would it be possible to purchase codecs and monitors with the Federal Stimulus monies. In the effort to put in two-way conferencing?*

Answer from Mike L.: *Still do not know – one of the reasons we would like to get input from districts on what they would like to spend those monies that would be one-time and long lasting projects.*

Comment from Elaine Harrison: *Don't forget that the State Championship will be held on May 21st at Rupp Arena in Lexington. There will be 92 districts, 290 schools and 4-5000 students and adults attending.*

1:26:50 Finish – please join us next month.